

Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

I rise today to pay tribute and bid fond farewell to Sharef Al Najjar, an exceptional young man who has done incredible work in my office in service to my constituents in the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas. Sharef's, who joined my team in 2011, will be relocating to Atlanta, Georgia with his fiancée, Gillian Robinson, where they will both pursue graduate studies at Emory University's Goizueta Business School.

From the moment he joined my staff, Sharef's talents and aptitude for logistics, information technology, project management, and administration were apparent for all to observe. These gifts, combined with Sharef's winning personality and cooperative spirit made him an invaluable teammate, mentor, and valued friend to his colleagues, who all will miss his good cheer and Zen but wish him and Gillian well in their future endeavors, which I am confident will include continued service in furtherance of the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I sought public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are many other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism of young people like Sharef Al Najjar, and those working in the offices of my colleagues, help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like Sharef Al Najjar and Gillian Robinson the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women like Sharef Al Najjar and Gillian Robinson can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

CONGRATULATING EDEN PRAIRIE SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Eden Prairie Girls' Synchronized Swimming Team, who recently won the Minnesota High School State Championship.

The Eagles triumphed at Friday's state meet, where two Eden Prairie routines—short trio team and long team—were rewarded first-place finishes. It was a close competition, but Eden Prairie's excellent figure scores put them over the edge to secure both wins.

This Eden Prairie team was determined to defy odds from the start of the season. They competed in a number of close battles this spring, including one against Hopkins High School where they won by 0.02 points. They ended the season with a strong stroke to bring home a championship for the school and for the community.

Mr. Speaker, this synchronized swimming team is fortunate to have so many talented members who have worked hard to get to this point. But even more than that, we commend these student athletes for living up to their obligations in both the classroom and in our community.

Congratulations again to the athletes, coaches, families, and fans of the Eden Prairie High School Synchronized Swimming Team.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF GLENWOOD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Glenwood, Iowa for its recognition as a 2015 Tree City USA sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program (the Forest Service).

The City of Glenwood has met the core standards for tree care during the past year. Over 135 million Americans live in Tree City USA communities. In its 40th year of celebration, the Tree City USA program is critical to the U.S. Forest Service. This federal partner delivers technical and financial resources to states, cities and communities across the nation with each community adhering to a State Action Plan, guiding investments in each state while accomplishing local projects and programs.

The U.S. Forest Service and Arbor Day Foundation cooperate with communities to establish healthy forests, improve air and water quality and contribute to important national energy conservation goals. These local investments create long term major environmental improvements nationwide. When communities like Glenwood are recognized it makes me proud to represent our great state in the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the City of Glenwood and urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them for receiving this award and wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING RYAN GATTERMEIR ON BEING NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryan Gattermeir, who has recently been named President of the Missouri Association of REALTORS.

The president serves as a part of the 5-member leadership council for the Missouri Association of REALTORS, which is an advocacy group representing the interests of realtors in our state. The president serves on a volunteer basis for a one year term, and is a role that is instrumental in the day-to-day operations and policy goals of the organization.

Ryan has long been an influential force in the Missouri real estate community. Growing up as the son of a realtor, he has been immersed in the industry since he was young. After graduating from Westminster College in 1996, he went to work with his father's real estate business. Eight years later, he struck out on his own and was met with great success. In addition to his thriving real estate business, Ryan is on the Board of Directors for the National Association of REALTORS, as well as chairing five committees in the local Missouri chapter.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan Gattermeir has built a long and successful career in the real estate industry, and has proven to be a capable leader among his peers. I'm confident that he will represent the realtors of Missouri to the very best of his ability and will spare no effort in advocating on their behalf. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ryan on his appointment, and wish him luck over his term as president.

HONORING MR. PAUL SCHAPIRO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Paul Schapiro, who passed away on June 3, 2016, after 58 remarkable years.

Paul left an indelible mark on our Napa Valley community with his friendly demeanor and profound generosity. He volunteered his time for civic causes with the American Canyon Lions Club, and was a leader in the local Democratic community, serving as Treasurer for the Napa County Democratic Central Committee. He was an outspoken activist and regularly attended peace vigils to bring awareness to causes close to his heart.

Paul's dedication to bringing about meaningful change in our society set an impressive example that we should all strive to emulate. A passionate proponent of sustainability, Paul rode his bike to work every day, eventually winning the Napa County Bicycle Coalition's Bicycle Commuter of the Year Award in 2014. Impressively, his bike had more mileage on it than his car.

Those close to Paul agree he was a joy to be around and had a welcoming and gentle

nature. Paul loved baseball and as a native New Yorker, he cheered for the New York Mets, and for his adopted home team, the San Francisco Giants.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Schapiro led by example when it came to making a difference in our community, and in doing so, he inspired others to do the same. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Paul Schapiro here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT CONSTANCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saint Constance Catholic Church on their 50th anniversary. The accomplishments of this long-standing institution exemplify the importance and strength of community, fellowship, and service.

Founded in 1966 by father Emil Dussia, Saint Constance Catholic Church came from humble beginnings. Weekday mass was held at the homes of its parishioners and weekend mass at a middle school on William Street. Ground was broken on the new Kinyon Street church that same year, and in 1967 the Archbishop of Detroit, Cardinal Dearden, dedicated the building.

Soon after the official opening, church leaders and parish volunteers began work on the building and grounds. With a permanent place of worship ready for service, St. Constance Catholic Church continued to build its parish and welcome new members to their organization. In the 50 years since its founding, there are now 1150 families that are registered as members of the parish, demonstrating the significance of the church within the Taylor community.

The parish community of St. Constance Catholic Church provides much-needed services to the Taylor community, including financial assistance for parishioners facing economic hardship, alcoholics and narcotics anonymous support groups, and various community service projects. In the spirit of faith and fellowship, Saint Constance Catholic Church has held itself to the highest standard to ensure that local residents would always have somewhere to turn during both good times and bad. As a sanctuary of spiritual and social support, it has served as a pillar of the local community for half a century and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Saint Constance Catholic Church on their 50th anniversary and wish them many more years of faith, fellowship, and success.

TRIBUTE TO SUMMER HALL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Summer

Hall of Milo, Iowa for recognition as a Delegate at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, sponsored by The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Summer is one of six State of Iowa honor students selected to attend.

Summer is an exceptional student, high-achieving in academics and all-around service. This Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program for high school students who will seek to become physicians or enter the medical research field. The Congress of Future Medical Leaders honors, inspires and motivates high school students like Summer Hall as a luminary in the advanced study of medicine.

Summer Hall is a student at Southeast Warren High School in Liberty Center, Iowa. She was nominated by school officials and The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists because of academic excellence and civic-minded responsibilities.

Summer makes a difference by serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize her today. I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring her accomplishments. Summer Hall will obtain the goals and dreams of many medical professionals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, if I were present I would have voted yes on roll call number 297 to H.R. 4939.

JAMES WATSON JR.—KATY'S SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Watson Jr. for being named Katy's 'Senior Citizen of the Year' by a unanimous vote from the advisory board for the W.D and Argie Lee Fussell Senior Citizens Center.

This award is given by the city of Katy to an older American in recognition of their contributions and positive impact on the community. James works as a pharmacist in the city of Katy with his wife, Joan, and has no plans to retire anytime soon because he still enjoys the job. James was born in Katy, attended schools there, and even met his wife in Katy, Texas. He left for a brief period to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy from the University of Texas at Austin. James follows in the footsteps of his mother who won the very same award 21 years ago.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to James Watson Jr. for being named Katy's 'Senior Citizen of the Year.' Keep up the great work.

HONORING KELLY M. DARDEN, JR.

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Kelly M. Darden, Jr. as he retires after 32 years of service to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ASAC Darden has devoted his career to protecting the citizens of the United States, working in various capacities within the Bureau, and tirelessly contributing to our nation's most critical intelligence and security programs. ASAC Darden has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to serving the American public and most recently, our South Florida community as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge within the Miami Division of the FBI.

It is with great pleasure that I thank ASAC Darden for his dedication to South Florida and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO O'LEARY FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize O'Leary Funeral & Cremation of Norwalk, Iowa for being honored with the Award of Excellence in Funeral Service at the 136th annual Iowa Funeral Directors Association Convention.

Though they have only been in operation since 2014, owner Eric O'Leary and the O'Leary Funeral & Cremation staff brings years of experience to serve the Norwalk community, assisting families in saying goodbye to their loved ones with the utmost respect and dignity.

The Award of Excellence was established to recognize the importance of funeral directors playing an active role in their communities and promoting their profession through those relationships. The award requires a funeral home to excel in four of the following five areas: presentation of public information, active membership in the state association, sponsorship of community events or services, professional development, and personal development.

Founded in 1880, the Iowa Funeral Directors Association represents over 700 licensed funeral directors and 413 funeral homes in Iowa, providing members with leadership, direction and resources for providing the best care and services to families with pre-planning arrangements.

I commend Eric O'Leary and the O'Leary Funeral & Cremation staff for their award, and the service and care they provide for the residents of the Norwalk area. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating O'Leary Funeral & Cremation for winning the Award of Excellence in Funeral Service. I wish them nothing but continued success.